Village of Holden Dissolution Study

June 2004

Alberta
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

VILLAGE OF HOLDEN DISSOLUTION STUDY

105-01774/

Introduction

Section 130 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) requires that a dissolution study be done if the Minister receives a request for a study from a municipal council. In February 2004, the Minister of Municipal Affairs received a request from the Village of Holden (village) asking for a dissolution study.

What is dissolution?

Dissolution is the legal process of dissolving one municipal corporation and joining it with another municipal corporation.

The village is a municipal corporation providing local governance and municipal services to the residents. If the village dissolves, it would join with the municipal corporation of Beaver County (county). The county would then provide local governance and municipal services to the residents of Holden.

What is a dissolution study?

A dissolution study is a written report that in part:

- describes the current situation in the village;
- describes current information on municipal services in the village and what change may occur if the village joins the county; and
- provides a comparison of village and county taxes for 2003.

Information for the study is gathered from the:

- village council and administration;
- county council and administration; and
- public and ministry records.

Please note: A dissolution study is not an audit or an inquiry into the operation of the village.

What happens when the study is completed?

Residents will receive the following:

- a copy of the study;
- notice of the date, time and location of a public meeting when Municipal Affairs will present the study and answer the questions of residents; and
- notice of "Vote on a Bylaw or Question" giving the time, date and location of the vote on the question of dissolution.

The current situation in Holden

Village Population

The village's population decreased from 397 to 374 between 1999 and 2003.

Village Property Tax Assessment Base

The value of the village's property assessment base (residential and non-residential) increased by approximately $620,000 or 8 percent between 1999 and 2003.

Residential assessment increased by approximately $1 million, or 22 percent, and non-residential decreased by $390,000, or 12 percent, between 1999 and 2003.

The increase in residential assessment is due to changes to the market value assessment of existing properties.

The decrease in non-residential assessment is due to the de-licensing and removal of grain elevators.

These changes to Holden's assessment base contributed to a shift in the ratio of residential to non-residential assessment. In 1999, residential property assessment paid 59 percent of the property tax levy, while non-residential property assessment paid 41 percent of the municipal property tax levy. By 2003, residential property assessment was paying 66 percent, and non-residential property assessment 34 percent of the municipal property tax levy.

This means that the residential property assessment has been paying an increasingly larger

portion of the municipal property tax levy since 1999. This does not mean that non-residential is not paying its share of the property tax levy, just that there are fewer non-residential properties contributing to the overall property tax assessment base. This is not within the village's control.

Village Municipal Property Tax Levy

The municipal property tax levy is the net amount of money required from the property assessment base to support the village's operations and does not include requisitions for education or the Beaver Foundation. Between 1999 and 2003, the municipal property tax levy increased 23 percent from $217,578 to $266,659.

Village Finances

The village is managing to perform well financially. As of December 31, 2003, the village had financial assets totalling $445,244 and liabilities, including long-term debt, in the amount of $136,189. The village remained in a positive financial position at the end of 2003.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Council representation	The village has a five-member council that is elected at large. This means that individual councillors represent all the village residents and not the residents of a particular area. The village council appoints the mayor at its annual organizational meeting. The first duty of village councillors prescribed in section 153 of the Municipal Government Act is: *To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality.*	The county is divided into five electoral divisions. Residents of each electoral division elect one councillor to represent their interests on the county council. The county council appoints the reeve at its annual organizational meeting. Holden would become part of Division 4, and would be represented by the councillor for that division. The current population in Division 4 is 890. The first duty of county councillors prescribed in section 153 of the Municipal Government Act is: *To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality.*
Council meetings	Regular council meetings are held on the third Monday every month at the village office at 7:30 p.m.	Regular council meetings are held on the third Wednesday every month at 9:30 a.m. at the county office in Ryley.
Village employees	The village has three staff members. The chief administrative officer (CAO) and the village foreman are both full-time, while the assistant CAO is part-time.	At the time of dissolution, or after a three-month transition period, village employees would receive a severance package. The provincial government contributes to the cost. The county would conduct a full analysis of the needs of Holden and may incorporate existing village staff into the county staff complement.
Village office	The village owns and operates the municipal office building. The office is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	The county office in Ryley is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The county would close the Holden municipal office and offer the building for sale.

VILLAGE OF HOLDEN DISSOLUTION STUDY

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Information	Village residents can contact the village office, a councillor, or the CAO to get information.	County residents can contact the county office or a councillor to get information. If the village dissolves, the county would provide Holden residents with an information package about county services, contact names and emergency numbers.
Payment of tax notices	Village residents can pay tax and utility bills: • at the municipal office; or • by mail. The village offers a monthly payment plan, and provides a five percent discount on taxes paid in January (taxes based on previous year's tax rate).	County residents can pay tax and utility bills: • at the municipal office • on the internet; or • by mail. The county offers its residents a preauthorized monthly payment plan to provide for the payment of taxes in monthly installments from January to December.
Tax due dates and penalties	Taxes are due 60 days after the mailing out of tax notices. After 60 days, an 18 percent penalty is applied. An additional 18 percent penalty is applied on January 1 on any unpaid balance.	County taxes are due upon receipt of tax notices. They remain penalty free until November 1, when an 18 percent penalty is applied.
Village assets and liabilities	The village has cash and other assets including land, buildings, equipment, and supplies. Liabilities include such things as debt, accounts payable and any other outstanding claims against the village.	Holden's assets and liabilities would transfer to the county at the time of dissolution. The county could dispose of assets that it did not require. The Order in Council dissolving the village would contain a provision that the county must place surplus cash (assets minus liabilities) in a separate reserve. The county must use those funds to benefit Holden.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Village debt	The village's long-term debt includes: Water system • $10,329 remaining on the principal portion of a debenture for construction of the water system, taken in 1979 and due to be paid out in 2004. • $43,939 remaining on the principal portion of a debenture for the water treatment plant, taken in 1985 and due to be paid out in 2010. Sidewalks • $4,993 remaining on the principal portion of a debenture for curb, gutter and sidewalk construction, taken in 1984 and due to be paid out in 2004. Sewer system • $26,103 remaining on the principal portion of a debenture for the purchase of land for a sewage treatment facility, taken in 1981 and due to be paid out in 2006. • $26,149 remaining on the principal portion of a debenture for the construction of a sewage treatment facility, taken in 1983 and due to be paid out in 2008. In 2003 the total debt payment for the village was $44,680. The 2003 debt payment of $18,122 on the sewer system came from the revenue generated by sewer utility rates. The remaining 2003 debt payment of $26,558 came from the village's general revenue.	Holden's debt is a liability and would transfer to the county at the time of dissolution. The county would levy a special tax rate to cover the debt payments on the water system and sidewalk construction. Using the village's 2003 assessment, this would require a special tax rate of 3.1115. This rate is reflected in the tax comparison charts in the appendices. The revenue from the sewer utility rate covers the payment on the existing sewer debentures. The estimates in the appendices do not consider that two of Holden's five debentures will be paid out in 2004. The debenture for the water treatment plant may be paid out when the sale to CU Water Limited is completed. Payments on any new long-term debt for Holden would come from one or a combination of: • user fees/utility rates; • a special tax on all village properties; • frontage tax on specific properties; or • the special reserve noted above or other reserves.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Village debt (continued)	Payment on any new long-term debt would come from one or a combination of: • user fees/utility rates; • a special tax on all village properties; • frontage tax on specific properties; or • reserves. Two of the debentures are due to be paid out in 2004. The debenture for the water treatment plant is to be paid out when the sale of the water system is confirmed. This will leave the village with the two sewer debentures.	
Grants	The village is eligible for various grants such as the: • Municipal Sponsorship Program; • Regional Partnership Initiative; • Streets Improvement Program; and • Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership. The village council applies for grants based on village priorities.	The county is eligible for various grants such as the: • Municipal Sponsorship Program; • Regional Partnership Initiative; • Streets Improvement Program; and • Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership. The county council applies for grants based on county priorities. The difference is that after dissolution, grants for Holden have to be considered along with the needs of the rest of the county. Holden's priorities may not always be county priorities.
Police	The RCMP detachment in Tofield provides police services to the village.	The RCMP detachment in Tofield would provide police services to Holden.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Fire	The Holden Fire Department, a volunteer fire service, provides fire suppression in the village and in the surrounding county. The fire department uses a shared hall with the county. There are two trucks, one village truck, and one county truck, both for use by the fire department. The village pays the cost of utilities and insurance for the fire hall and bills the county for 50 percent of the cost. Both the village and county contribute to the training and operational costs of the fire department. The cost of responding to fires within the village is covered by general taxation. If other departments are called in to assist, these additional costs are billed to the property owner.	The Holden Fire Department would continue to provide fire suppression in Holden and the surrounding area. The county would provide for the utilities and insurance for the fire hall, and would provide for the training and operational costs of the fire department. The county's fee schedule for fire response reads as follows: *Responses to structure fires, wild land fires, and fires on private property within the boundaries of Beaver County shall be charged at a rate of $350.00 per hour per (5 man) Pumper unit, $250.00 per hour per (3 man) Pumper unit, $250.00 per hour per Rescue unit, $200.00 per hour per Tanker, and $150.00 per hour per Mini-Pumper, or major portion thereof, from the time of response until the time Apparatus is returned to ready-for-service status excluding command vehicles. The minimum charge shall be $600.00.* These charges would apply to fires in Holden.
Ambulance	The village is a member of the Beaver Ambulance Authority (BAS). The BAS requisitions funds from members on an annual basis. The requisition is based on equalized assessment.	The county is a member of the Beaver Ambulance Authority (BAS). Ambulance service in Holden would not change.
Disaster services	The village has a disaster services plan.	The county has a disaster services plan and would incorporate Holden into its plan.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
911 service	A 911 dispatch service is provided by Strathcona County's Emergency Services Communication Centre. The cost of this service is added to the phone bills of residents in the service area.	A 911 dispatch service would continue to be provided by Strathcona County's Emergency Services Communication Centre. The cost would still be added to the phone bills of residents.
Village bylaws	The village has many bylaws in place to regulate and administer the village including such things as: • noise restriction; • snow removal; • unsightly premises; and • animal control.	Existing village bylaws will still be in force in Holden until the county council repeals or amends them.
Bylaw enforcement	The special constable from Beaver County handles bylaw enforcement in the village. The village pays an hourly rate for the special constable, and bylaw enforcement is done on a complaint basis.	The county's special constable would continue to provide bylaw enforcement within Holden.
Road maintenance	The village roadways are a mix of asphalt and gravel. The village provides general maintenance on the roadways. Major repairs or construction are contracted out as required. The village is responsible for clearing snow from roadways and alleys in the winter. The village contracts the county to assist with snow removal if required. The village has a policy that lists the order in which the streets and avenues are to be cleared of snow.	The county would conduct a thorough study of the condition of the roads in Holden. The county does its own construction and maintenance on an as-needed basis, in accordance with policy. The county's first priority for snow removal is school bus routes. County roads, and adjacent hamlet roads, are done next.
Streetlights	Streetlights in the village are owned by Aquila. The village pays the cost for the streetlights out of general revenue.	Holden's streetlights would still be owned by Aquila. The county will pay the cost for the streetlights from general revenue.
Grass cutting	The village provides grass cutting on village-owned property.	The county would provide grass cutting on municipally-owned property.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Sidewalk maintenance	The village provides general sidewalk maintenance when needed. New construction is contracted out as required, and can be funded through the Streets Improvement Program. In the winter, residents are responsible for removing snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property.	The county would conduct a thorough study of the condition of the sidewalks in Holden. The county schedules the repair and maintenance of sidewalks and funds them through the Streets Improvement Program. Residents will still be responsible for removing snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property.
Water and sewer systems	Water system The village's water supply comes by pipeline from the City of Edmonton. The right to supply and operate the water system in Holden was sold to CU Water Limited in 2001. CU Water contracts the village to read the water meters. Sewer system The village sewer system was originally built in 1955 and has since been upgraded. The village does regular maintenance on the system. The systems are registered and operated in accordance with the licences to operate issued by Alberta Environment. Emergency service is available 24 hours a day. Residents are responsible for the cost of future upgrading to the sewer system. Funding may come from one or a combination of the following: • grants; • utility rates; • property tax; or • reserves.	There would be no change to the water system in Holden as a result of dissolution. The county would operate the sewer systems in accordance with the licence issued by Alberta Environment. Emergency service would be available 24 hours a day. The county would conduct a thorough study of the condition of the sewer system. Holden residents would be responsible to pay the cost of any future upgrading of the sewer system. Funding may come from one or a combination of the following: • grants; • utility rates; • property tax; or • reserves.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Waste management	The village is a member of the Beaver Regional Waste Management Commission (commission). The commission does residential collection weekly and commercial collection twice-weekly. The village pays a monthly fee to the commission for this service. The cost of this service is passed on to residents as a separate utility charge.	The county is a member of the Beaver Regional Waste Management Commission. Garbage collection service would not change. Holden residents would continue to pay a utility charge for the service.
Utility rates	Village utility rates include garbage collection and sewer. CU Water Limited is responsible for the water utility billing in Holden. <u>Sewer system</u> The village sets the utility rate for the sewer system to cover the operating costs of the system, including the payment on the long-term debt. The monthly cost for sewer is $12.50 for residential and $16.50 for commercial. Surplus funds are placed in a reserve for future repairs or replacement of the system. <u>Garbage collection</u> The village sets the garbage collection rate to cover the cost of the service. The monthly charge for garbage is $6.50 for residential property and $10 for commercial property. Surplus funds go into the village's general revenue. <u>Billing</u> Utility billing for garbage and sewer is done annually on the tax notices. The penalties for late payment of taxes also apply to garbage and sewer rates.	The county would continue with the current garbage collection and sewer utility rates as long as the revenue generated pays the operating and capital cost of providing the service, including payment of the long-term debt. The county would place any surplus generated through utility rates in a reserve for the future repair and replacement of the sewer system. The county would complete an analysis of different billing options and determine the most cost-effective billing frequency. CU Water Limited would be responsible for the water utility billing in Holden.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)	The village is a member of the Viking and Beaver FCSS Board. The FCSS services within the village are provided through this board. Viking and Beaver FCSS have a part-time community programmer, who works out of the village office. The village donates the use of that space. The regional FCSS board pools both provincial grant money and municipal contributions in order to provide central services. The village portion is paid out of general revenue.	The county is a member of the Viking and Beaver FCSS Board. The FCSS services in Holden would still be provided through this board.
Campground	The Holden campground is owned and operated by the village. The village is responsible for collecting the camping fees and the maintenance of the campground.	The county would look for a community group to take over the operation and maintenance of the campground in exchange for the camping revenue.
Community hall	The village owns and operates the Holden community hall. The village pays all the cost of utilities, maintenance and insurance. The village is also responsible for hall bookings and collecting rent for the facility. The village provides the facility free of charge to numerous community groups. In 2003, the community hall operated at a $12,647 deficit to the village. In 2002, the community hall operated at a $9,139 deficit to the village.	The county would look for a community group to take over the operation and maintenance of the Holden community hall. If a community group cannot be found to operate the community hall, the county may consider closing and selling the building. The county is not prepared to commit to providing operational funding for the community hall.
Cemetery	The Holden cemetery is on village-owned land and is maintained by a local cemetery committee. The cemetery committee is responsible for the maintenance of records, the opening and closing of graves and general upkeep of the grounds.	The cemetery land would transfer to the county and the cemetery committee would continue to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Holden cemetery.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Holden museum	The village owns the museum building. The Holden Historical Society operates the museum. The village pays for the utilities, insurance and maintenance for the building. The total cost to the village in 2003 was $1,795. The village provides no additional operational grant to the museum.	The Holden Historical Society would continue to operate the museum. The county would look to sell the museum building to the society. The society would be responsible for the utilities and maintenance of the building. The county would provide insurance coverage to the society and would invoice them for the cost of that coverage.
Library	The village is a member of the Northern Lights Library System (NLLS). The village council appoints the Holden library board and owns the library building. In 2003, the total amount of the village's contribution to the library was $6,867. This included the cost of: • utilities ($2,980); • maintenance ($502); • insurance ($663); • audit and payroll ($100); • membership in NLLS ($1,197); and • an operating grant ($1,425).	The county is a member of the Northern Lights Library System (NLLS). The NLLS is the municipal library board of record for the county. The county does not regularly provide operating grants to community libraries. The county would provide insurance coverage to the Holden library board and would invoice it for the cost of that coverage. The library board would be responsible for the utilities and maintenance for the building as well as handling the audit and payroll. The county would continue to let the library board use the building until a thorough assessment of library needs in the county is completed.
Recreation grounds	The village owns and operates the recreation groups. The recreation grounds include: • a wading pool; • picnic areas; • ball diamonds; and • a playground.	The county would look for a community group to take over the operation and maintenance of the recreation grounds.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Holden economic development committee	The village council has established an economic development committee for Holden. The village provides funding to that committee.	The county would support the economic development committee, but would not provide funding.
Beaver Foundation	The Beaver Foundation Management Agency (foundation) is responsible for managing all of the lodges and senior housing in Beaver County. The village is a member on the board of the foundation. The village owns the building used by the foundation. The village covers the cost of insurance for the building. The foundation rents the building from the village.	The county is a member on the board of the Beaver Foundation Management Agency (foundation). The county would look to sell the building used by the foundation. The county will work with the Beaver Foundation to find new office space.
Rental properties	The village has five properties (including the Beaver Foundation building) that it rents to individuals and businesses. The village has leases or rental agreements in place with all tenants.	The county would review each of the leases and rental agreements and determine whether or not to continue renting each property. The county may consider selling some or all of the properties.
Holden complex	The Holden complex consists of a curling rink and an arena, although only the arena is currently in use. The complex is owned and operated by the Holden and District Agricultural Society (society). The village provides a $3,000 per year grant to offset the cost of water to the facility and exempts it from garbage and sewer costs. The village provides additional named insurance coverage for the society and invoices it for the cost of this coverage.	The county provides an annual grant to the Holden and District Agricultural Society (society) in the amount of $12,000. The county would provide insurance coverage for the society and would invoice it for the cost of this coverage. The society would be responsible for the cost of sewer and garbage pickup.

Appendix 1

2003 tax comparison

2003 residential tax rate comparison

Residential tax rate	Village 2003	County 2003
General municipal	30.0500	13.6428
Education	4.9100	4.7817
Seniors foundation	0.2300	0.2213
Allowance	0.1100	0.0000
2003 tax rate	35.3000	18.6458
Add:		
Special debt levy (Holden)	0.0000	3.1115
2003 comparative tax rate	35.3000	21.7573

Note 1: County tax rates would include a special debt levy of 3.1115 mills to cover the annual debt payment ($26,558) on the non-sewer debentures.

Note 2: These estimates do not consider that two of Holden's five debentures will be paid out in 2004. The debenture for the water treatment plant may be paid out when the sale to CU Water Limited is completed.

Conclusion: The 2003 county residential tax rate was 38 percent lower than the village's.

2003 non-residential tax rate comparison

Non-residential tax rate	Village 2003	County 2003
General municipal	30.1900	14.9000
Education	7.8100	7.1666
Seniors foundation	0.2300	0.2213
Allowance	0.1100	0.0000
2003 tax rate	38.3400	22.2879
Add:		
Special debt levy (Holden)	0.0000	3.1115
2003 comparative tax rate	38.3400	25.3994

Note 1: County tax rates would include a special debt levy of 3.1115 mills to cover the annual debt payment ($26,558) on the non-sewer debentures.

Note 2: These estimates do not consider that two of Holden's five debentures will be paid out in 2004. The debenture for the water treatment plant may be paid out when the sale to CU Water Limited is completed.

Conclusion: The 2003 county non-residential tax rate was 34 percent lower than the village's.

Appendix 2

2003 estimated residential municipal cost comparison

The tables consider three actual residential properties in Holden. By applying the 2003 village and county tax rates and the required debt payment to these properties, residents can compare the expected total municipal cost if Holden remains a village with the expected total municipal cost if Holden joins the county. Estimates are rounded to the nearest dollar value.

2003 estimated residential tax if Holden remains a village

Sample properties	Assessment	2003 tax rate	Taxes	Total municipal cost
Residential 1	$69,890	35.3000	$2,467	$2,467
Residential 2	$46,780	35.3000	$1,651	$1,651
Residential 3	$27,190	35.3000	$960	$960

2003 estimated residential tax if Holden joins the county

Sample properties	Assessment	2003 tax rate	Taxes	Total municipal cost
Residential 1	$69,890	21.7573	$1,521	$1,521
Residential 2	$46,780	21.7573	$1,018	$1,018
Residential 3	$27,190	21.7573	$592	$592

2003 estimated residential municipal cost comparison summary

Sample properties	Municipal cost if Holden remains a village	Municipal cost if Holden joins the county	Difference $	Percentage %
Residential 1	$2,467	$1,521	-$946	-38
Residential 2	$1,651	$1,018	-$633	-38
Residential 3	$960	$592	-$368	-38

Conclusion: Using county rates, the sample properties have 38 percent lower total municipal cost than using village rates. Municipal cost includes property taxes and annual debt servicing payments.

Appendix 3

2003 estimated non-residential tax comparison

The tables consider three actual non-residential properties in Holden. By applying the 2003 village and county tax and required debt payment rates to these properties, residents can compare the expected total municipal cost if Holden remains a village with the expected total municipal cost if Holden joins the county. Estimates are rounded to the nearest dollar value.

2003 estimated non-residential tax if Holden remains a village

Sample properties	Assessment	2003 tax rate	Taxes	Total municipal cost
Non-residential 1	$81,010	38.3400	$3,106	$3,106
Non-residential 2	$36,160	38.3400	$1,386	$1,386
Non-residential 3	$24,160	38.3400	$926	$926

2003 estimated non-residential tax if Holden joins the county

Sample properties	Assessment	2003 tax rate	Taxes	Total municipal cost
Non-residential 1	$81,010	25.3994	$2,058	$2,058
Non-residential 2	$36,160	25.3994	$918	$918
Non-residential 3	$24,160	25.3994	$614	$614

2003 estimated non-residential municipal cost comparison summary

Sample properties	Municipal cost if Holden remains a village	Municipal cost if Holden joins the county	Difference $	Percentage %
Non-residential 1	$3,106	$2,058	-$1,048	-34
Non-residential 2	$1,386	$918	-$468	-34
Non-residential 3	$926	$614	-$312	-34

Conclusion: Using county rates, the sample properties have 34 percent lower total municipal cost than using village rates. Municipal cost includes property taxes and annual debt servicing payments.

What is the next step?

Alberta Municipal Affairs will conduct a public meeting to present the dissolution study and respond to residents' questions on the study and dissolution.

A vote on the question of dissolution will be held. Alberta Municipal Affairs will administer the vote in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act.

Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote you must be:

- at least 18 years of age;
- a Canadian citizen;
- a resident of Alberta for the 6 months immediately preceding the vote; and
- a resident of the Village of Holden on the day of the vote.

What does it mean to be a resident of the Village of Holden on the day of the vote?

The Local Authorities Election Act, section 48(1), states the rules of residence:

For the purposes of this Act, the place of residence is governed by the following rules:

(a) a person may have only one place of residence for the purposes of this Act;

(b) the residence of a person is the place where the person lives and sleeps and to which, when the person is absent, the person intends to return;

(c) a person does not lose the person's residence by leaving the person's home for a temporary purpose;

(d) subject to clause (e), a student who

i. attends an educational institution within or outside Alberta,

ii. temporarily rents accommodation for the purpose of attending an educational institution, and

iii. has family members who are resident in Alberta and with whom the student ordinarily resides when not attending an educational institution

is deemed to reside with those family members;

(e) if a person leaves the area with the intention of making the person's residence elsewhere, the person loses the person's residence within the area.

What happens after the vote?

The results of the vote, and the information in the study are provided to the Minister to help the Minister determine whether to recommend to the provincial Cabinet that the Village of Holden should dissolve and join Beaver County.

What happens if the Minister recommends dissolution?

If the Minister recommends dissolution to the provincial Cabinet and it agrees, an Order in Council is passed that dissolves the village into the county. The village administration would then work with the county to wind up the village's affairs.

What will happen if the Minister determines that the village should not dissolve?

The village will continue to provide services to residents and the county will continue to work with the village.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Call Terry Broome or Mark Cooper toll-free at Alberta Municipal Affairs by dialing 310-0000 and then 427-2225.